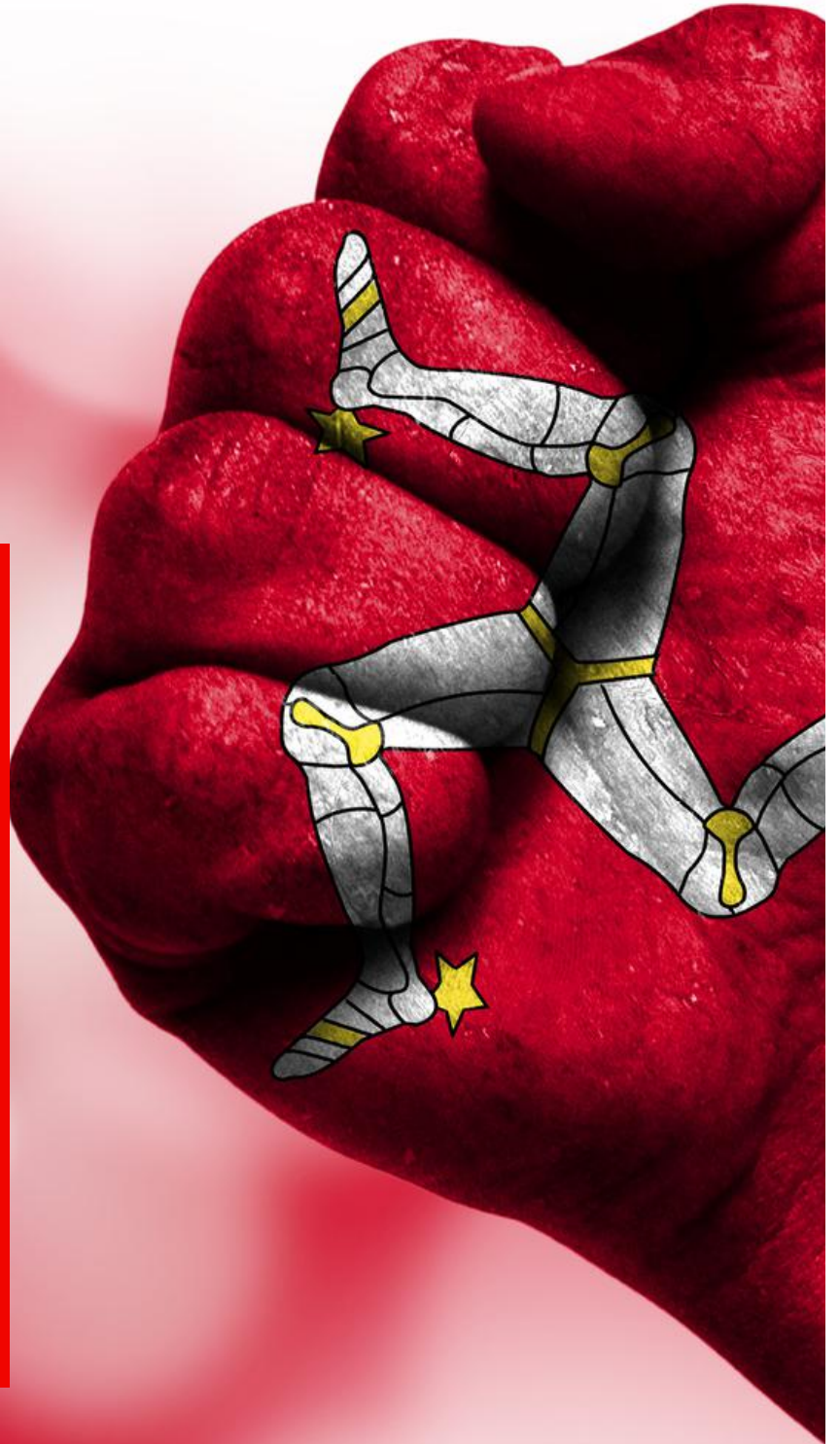




# NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2025



Website:

[www.isleofmansport.com](http://www.isleofmansport.com)

Address:

National Sports Centre  
Groves Road, Douglas  
Isle of Man, IM2 1RB

Contact:

[sportsliaison@gov.im](mailto:sportsliaison@gov.im)

# CONTENTS

3

ISLE OF MAN SPORT:  
OUR SPORTING NATION SURVEY

4

RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ISLE OF MAN

8



10



18



12

GLASGOW 2026:  
COMMONWEALTH GAMES



13

KING'S BATON RELAY



14

MALTA 2027:  
COMMONWEALTH YOUTH GAMES



15

ISLE OF MAN SPORTS  
AWARDS 2025



16

ISLE OF MAN SNOOKER:  
WORLD GAMES 2025



20

COACH EDUCATION  
PROGRAMME 2026



6



# HAVE YOUR SAY! OUR SPORTING NATION SURVEY

**Isle of Man Sport wants to hear from you! Whether you're a coach, official, volunteer, parent, participant or not involved in any sport at all but would like to be involved, we want to hear about your experience of sport on the Isle of Man! The survey is open until 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025.**

Thanks to our recognised sports, we know that there are over 20,000 participants in sport on the Island, supported by over 2,000 volunteers, 1,200 coaches and 850 officials, who all make sport happen on the Isle of Man.

We would now like to gather more information in relation to individuals' experiences of sport on the Island, to better understand our sporting community and their needs, with a view to helping shape how Isle of Man Sport continues to help and support sport on the Island.

We are keen to hear about your experience in its entirety. We therefore would be grateful if you could share what makes your sport and sporting experience great! In addition, if there are things that you feel could be improved, then we would welcome your feedback and suggestions.

Along with our partners and recognised sports, your responses will help shape our future work with the aim of ensuring everyone on the Island has a great sporting experience. The survey results will also help us to share, acknowledge and celebrate the fantastic work already being done!

Please scan the QR code or click the link to take you to our survey page! (Feel free to complete more than one if you have feedback to give in multiple capacities!)

Thank you for taking the time to share your feedback, it is greatly appreciated.

Scan the QR code in the poster below or click this link to complete the survey:

<https://www.isleofmansport.com/our-sporting-nation-survey/>



**Want more information about the survey or to obtain a paper copy? Contact us:**



[sportsliaison@gov.im](mailto:sportsliaison@gov.im)

# RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ISLE OF MAN



**Riding for the Disabled Isle of Man (RDA IoM) is an independent charity that is a Member Group of Riding for the Disabled Association UK and a proud member of the Manx Horse Council, the recognised Governing Body for Equestrian Sports on the Island. We caught up with Kat Ions (RDA IoM Group Organiser and one of the Coaching team) to find a little bit more about what RDA Isle of Man does, their recent growth and successes and what makes riding so brilliant!**

## **Tell us a bit more about Riding for the Disabled Isle of Man and what you do.**

RDA IoM is an amazing, inclusive and diverse charity. We welcome participants with physical and learning disabilities to come and get involved in positive horse experiences. There are no age restrictions, so we can bring therapy, achievement and fun to as many people, with additional needs, as we can on the Island!

We offer riding sessions two days a week at the fabulous Guilcagh Stables in Andreas. In addition, we have been able to take groups of riders to the Clwyd Special Riding Centre in Wales, and we compete in virtual, regional and national competitions in the UK. As a 100% volunteer run and self-funded charity, we are incredibly proud of what we do and can't quite believe we will be celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday in 2026!

## **What are the benefits to riding and why should someone get involved?**

There are many benefits for our riders, their families and our volunteers in being involved. These include.

- Spending quality time building bonds with fantastic horses & ponies
- Building physical strength & balance
- Seeing themselves & others blossom in confidence and resilience
- Learning new skills that can be transferred into all parts of life
- Making lifelong friendships

Getting involved is something so worthwhile. Watching faces break into pure joy can't be beaten. Come and give it a try!

## **EXPANSION OF RDA PROGRAMMES**

### **Tell us a bit more about the growth of participation at RDA IoM in recent years?**

With the assistance of IoM Sport, the Manx Horse Council and our team of passionate volunteers we have been able to double the number of sessions we provide over the past few years. We now have over 1200 half hour rides annually and over 150 participants on our books.

We celebrate being able to graduate riders to the fantastic riding schools across the island. Making way for new members to join, to fall in love with riding.

### **What makes RDA IoM so wonderful?**

Where to start!?! I could talk about it all day! The charity motto is 'It's what you CAN do that counts' and this is the basis of everything we do. Believing in this means there are no limits to anything, which makes for such a positive environment for everyone to grow.

As a self funded charity, we can only carry out our life-changing activities thanks to the generosity of donors, the dedication of our team of volunteers and the good nature of our fantastic horses. We are so incredibly fortunate to borrow the amazing facilities and horses of Rose & her team at the Guilcagh Stables. The skill of preparing horses we can use for our riders is something for which we shall forever be grateful.

Going into our 50<sup>th</sup> year of providing positive horse experiences is just such a wonderful achievement for the founders and all the fabulous volunteers that have kept everything going and growing.

# RDA NATIONAL AND VIRTUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

## What are the RDA National and Virtual Championships?

There are over 500 RDA groups across the British Isles, and everyone is able to compete in the Face to Face and Virtual Championships. There are seven disciplines, and we compete in Dressage, Countryside Challenge and Show-Jumping.

Due to logistics & funding, we are limited in taking 3 different riders each Spring to the North West Qualifiers, which feed into the Nationals in Gloucestershire in July, if successful. We borrow horses from different RDA groups, and our brave riders have the experience of a lifetime competing on such a platform.

Entering the Virtual Nationals is something we did in 2024 for the first time. This allows significantly more of our riders to be able to compete from the comfort of their known horses and environment. In the world of additional needs, this has been revolutionary for us and our riders. Both events are live streamed, and it allows the RDA IoM support network to turn up in force to back our riders. Cheer us along as 13 of our riders enter this years Virtuals on 21-23<sup>rd</sup> Nov!

## RDA IoM was very successful in the recent Championships, tell us more about your plans for 2026 and beyond.

Being an isolated Island group, it can be quite difficult to understand the level of our riders going into competitions. We always have all the pride and confidence in them giving it their best. I'm not going to lie; our guys absolutely smash any competition they enter!

They wear their IoM Red shirts, Triskelion tie pins and lucky Manx cat badges with such passion – they are unstoppable! Competing on a level playing field for their additional needs makes everything they CAN do count. We added Show-jumping into our programme for 2025 and plan to expand this alongside adding in the younger generation of riders into the Virtuals in 2026.

2026 is going to be all about our Golden Anniversary! We can't wait to be able to celebrate with everyone who has been involved in getting us this far. Maybe there will be some competition gold in the mix too! Watch this space!



Evie Roberts (Current IoM Sports Disability Sportsperson of the Year) with her Dressage Calling Team of Volunteers (Credit: RDAIoM)

## Where can I find out more information about RDA Isle of Man or get involved?

If you would like more information on what we do, or how you can help play a part in keeping us running for another 50 years to come, please contact us. More information can be found on our website, social media or by contacting us via email (see below) or phone on 07624 315739. Or watch our video here; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B3HAXA97CxQ>



### Suzanne Corlett, Manx Horse Council Chair said:

“ The Manx Horse Council is incredibly proud of Riding for the Disabled Isle of Man and the amazing work they do. Their dedication to providing opportunities for riders of all abilities is truly inspiring, and it's wonderful to see their continued growth — from new initiatives and disciplines to more riders achieving success both on and off the Island. None of this would be possible without the tireless commitment of their volunteers, committee members, and the wonderful parents who give their time and support to make it all happen. ”

# ORKNEY 2025: MORE THAN MEDALS



Credit: Andy Dalrymple

A 135-strong team of Manx athletes travelled to Orkney for the 20<sup>th</sup> International Island Games which took place between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> July 2025. This biennial event featured 24 Islands competing in 12 different sports (Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Bowls, Cycling, Football, Golf, Gymnastics, Sailing, Squash, Swimming and Triathlon) across the week-long event. Finishing 4<sup>th</sup> overall in the medal table, the Isle of Man brought back a total of 80 medals (19 gold, 27 silver and 34 bronze) and but perhaps more importantly new cultural experiences, unforgettable memories and lifelong friendships! Below are a just few of the highlights from Team Isle of Man at Orkney 2025...

## ARCHERY

Without a recurve squad, the Archery team for Orkney 2025 was slightly smaller than previous games but the 5-strong team, including a Games debutant, Andrew Westmorland, brought home a total of 5 medals across individual and pair events. The success of the squad has also generated interest amongst newer (and previously retired) archers to build towards the Faroe 2027 Games and Isle of Man 2029!

## ATHLETICS

There were many outstanding performances from the entire Isle of Man Athletics team during Games, including Gold Medals and Games' records for Christa Cain and Corrin Leeming in the 10,000m, with Christa breaking a record that had stood since 1997 and Corrin becoming the first athlete in Island Games history to go under 30 minutes! Regan Corrin retained his High Jump title with a jump of 1.97m whilst being part of the bronze medal winning men's squads in the 4x100m and 4x400m relays. Aimee Christian won a bronze medal in the 400m hurdles again but in a time 6 seconds quicker than 2 years ago and Georgia Price became the first Manx woman ever to medal in the Triple Jump at the Island Games, following her successful transition from Gymnastics. A number of younger and first-time athletes also performed well on their debuts, showing great promise for the future!

## BADMINTON

The atmosphere and support in the Pickaquoy main hall was electric and after coming agonisingly close to medals in previous Games, the Isle of Man Badminton team's hard work over the last 2 years was rewarded in Orkney 2025 increasing their medal tally by 2 since Guernsey 2023 and medalling in all but one event!

## CYCLING

A blend of experience and youth across the 8-strong Cycling Team, saw several riders compete across both mountain bike and road events through the week. Tyler Hannay produced an impressive performance in the Time Trial to claim the victory 2 minutes ahead of his nearest rival and strong performances from the whole team saw them pick up team medals in all 5 events!



Lieutenant Governor, Sir John Lorimer, with some of the Isle of Man athletes at the Opening Ceremony Credit: Media Isle of Man

## FOOTBALL

The men's team won all 3 of their group games, proceeding to the semi-final and after a tight 1-0 loss to Ynys Mon, the team produced a strong performance to secure the bronze medal against Jersey (2023 winners). The women's team went one better than their 2023 performance, securing a silver medal after two very close games in the semi-final and final which could not be split in normal time.

## GOLF

A 1-2 double from Darryl Callister and Robert Noon in the Men's Individual competition saw them take home individual gold and silver medals respectively, as well as securing the team gold medal alongside Liam Cowin and Christopher Kneen. In the ladies competition, Emma Noon was the highest finishing Manx female, finishing in 5<sup>th</sup> in the individual event following 4 rounds of competition across 2 different golf courses.

## GYMNASTICS

Gymnastics had not been included in the Games since Gotland 2017, so it was a welcome return for the sport and the 12-strong Isle of Man Gymnastics team finished 3<sup>rd</sup> overall, bringing home a total of 22 medals (including 3 golds). Among the team was Phoebe Christian, the youngest athlete to compete at Orkney 2025, who turned 13 on the first day of the Games and was also the Isle of Man's 'water carrier' at the Opening Ceremony of the Games,

## SAILING

The Manx Sailing squad included father-daughter duo, Jason and Lettie Hyett, highlighting the opportunity sailing provides for all ages to compete against one another. The 4-strong team put in solid performances against experienced competition, with a notable performance from Teddy Dunn who finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the individual ILCA 7 event.

Isle of Man Sport are proud to have supported Team Isle of Man to attend the Orkney 2025 Games and would like to congratulate all athletes, coaches, officials, team managers and volunteers for their performances in Orkney 2025, as well as all those involved as part of wider training squads, volunteers and fundraisers which helped Team Isle of Man in the build up to Island Games. Thank you!

## SQUASH

With an action-packed week of competition, the Isle of Man Squash team performed well, reaching quarter-finals in both men's doubles and women's singles events, with the mixed doubles team of Thomas Whiteway and Clare Townsend and women's doubles team of Hannah Dixon and Clare Townsend both reaching Bronze Medal matches but unfortunately just missing out on silverware.

## SWIMMING

The 15-strong swimming contingent saw a mixture of youth and experience, including 5 Games debutants. The team brought back 19 medals, topping the medal table for the Island but also broke 4 Island Games records, 9 Manx National records and produced several personal best performances over the week!

## TRIATHLON

Clara Isaac secured the Isle of Man's first medal of Orkney 2025, winning a bronze medal in the women's individual triathlon on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July!



*Clara Isaac receiving Isle of Man's first medal of Orkney 2025 (Credit: Media Isle of Man)*

All of the Manx women's team

produced great performances to finish within the top 20 of the individual event and in the team event, they were just pipped to bronze by 12 seconds from hosts, Orkney! A variety of injuries, illnesses and mechanical issues hampered the Isle of Man Men's triathlon team's ambitions in Orkney but Nick Ardern and Matt Looker produced strong performances under challenging conditions in the men's event.

# ISLE OF MAN CRICKET: NEW INDOOR CENTRE



Earlier this year, the Isle of Man Cricket Association (IOMCA), the governing body for cricket on the Island, announced their plans for a dedicated indoor cricket centre due to open in Tromode in late 2025. Following months of work, we visited the centre to catch up with Greig Wright (IOMCA Cricket Development Officer) to find out a little bit more about the plans for the new centre, next steps and the impact this will have on cricket for the Isle of Man, across the participation pathway.

## INDOOR CRICKET CENTRE

**Tell us a bit more about the vision for the Indoor Cricket Centre. Where did it come from and how long has it taken to bring this vision to reality?**

The growth of cricket has been significant in the last 3-4 years and the number of people who want to develop, not just play in the summer, led us to investigate winter programmes including training / skill development and indoor cricket. Facilities are hard to secure and to truly offer everything there isn't a facility which can really do both. We ran the idea through the Exec last November/December and we are nearly there now!



*IOMCA Indoor Cricket Centre*



*IOMCA's Indoor Cricket Centre (from the Viewing Gallery)*

**What are the IOMCA's plans for the new Centre once it's open?**

We are looking to offer Cricket for all. The Centre can offer simple play, so things like indoor cricket, Cric-Start for pre-school children through to utilising it to its fullest and having a truly high-performance centre for national team training programmes. Stage 1 will have set opening times, moving forward we will have a booking system which will allow access when it suits the individual at anytime of the day.

**Why is it important for the IOMCA to have a dedicated cricket facility and how will this impact the development of Cricket moving forward?**

Our support from the ICC is based on a number scorecard so the more people we have playing the more support we get from them. We are hoping that having a place where people can use it at their

leisure at a time that suits them will also grow club numbers, as this will remove the initial steps of walking into a new club as a novice and having to go straight into competitive match-play. People can have cricket when they want it.



*IOMCA Men's National Team*

## STRATEGY AND FUTURE PLANS

**We're halfway through IOMCA's 2023-2027 Strategy for the Future of Cricket on the Isle of Man. Tell us a bit more about the IOMCA's aims during this time and the progress you've made towards these goals.**

We have seen real growth in the women's game and are nearly there in the cricket in education element as we now offer cricket to boys and girls in all primaries and secondary schools. The technology element is going to move to another level with having dedicated offices within the centre. This allows us to focus heavily on the development of coaches, umpires and players in the next 2 years to support the high performance and officials goals.

### **What are the IOMCA's plans and key targets for the next 2 years?**

We want to have robust plans and schedules for all players in high performance programmes which will be regularly reviewed. We are also aiming to run 3 coaching courses to upskill coaches to develop coaching in clubs and to run a level 1 umpire's course. In addition, we are looking at the feasibility of hosting a European Level 2 course (coaching).



*Some of the IOMCA Education Programmes*

## GRASSROOTS CRICKET

### **How can someone get involved in Cricket on the Island? Are there opportunities outside of playing?**

The details of all the clubs can be found on the IOMCA website, along with information about coach education, umpiring and scoring. Or anyone can pop into the Centre, have a try and be signposted to a suitable club.

### **Want to find out more information or get in touch with Isle of Man Cricket Association? Contact us:**



[cdo@iomcricket.co.uk](mailto:cdo@iomcricket.co.uk)



[www.iomcricket.co.uk](http://www.iomcricket.co.uk)



<https://www.facebook.com/isleofmancricket/>



07624 489429



# ISLE OF MAN ATHLETICS: VOLUNTEER CELEBRATION



Two of the Isle of Man Athletics Association's (IOMAA) most dedicated volunteers, Bernie and Di Shimell were recently recognised by England Athletics for their services to the sport. We caught up with Isle of Man Athletics and Ollie Lockley, Isle of Man Athletics Development Officer, to find out a little bit more about their award, recognition for local volunteers and the Isle of Man Athletics Volunteer Award Scheme.

## NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Bernie and Di were recipients of a Services to Athletics and Running accolade at the North West Regional Volunteer Awards in Greater Manchester this year, following nomination by Isle of Man Athletics for over 30 years service to the sport.

Following their success, Isle of Man Athletics said:

*"Bernie and Di are true pillars of our athletics community - selflessly giving their time, energy and passion to help the sport thrive. Without volunteers like them, athletics in the Island simply wouldn't be what it is today. Thank you both for everything you do!"*



Bernie and Di Shimell pictured with the Lieutenant Governor Sir John Lorimer and their awards  
(Credit: Isle of Man Athletics)

### ENGLAND ATHLETICS SAID:



**“ Bernie and Di Shimell are the backbone of athletics in the Isle of Man.**

**With over 30 years of dedicated service, Di has coached athletes of all ages and abilities - some to International success - while also officiating, managing teams, and organising major championships.**

**Bernie, a timekeeper since the 1990s, supports more than 50 events annually with warmth and professionalism. Together, they've strengthened clubs, inspired volunteers, and built a lasting legacy of excellence, inclusion and community spirit.**

**Their tireless commitment and love for the sport have shaped generations and made an enduring impact across the region.**



# LOCAL RECOGNITION

**There's also some other local milestones to celebrate for volunteers as well, isn't there?**

Yes. Further congratulations are to be given to those who have reached an incredible milestone of completing 50 volunteering events since the Volunteer Award Scheme began: Bernie & Di Shimell, Petra Atchison, Raymond Cox and John Whitlow (all pictured below). Their commitment keeps our events running smoothly and successfully - we couldn't do it without you, so thank you!



*Volunteers reaching the milestone of completing 50 volunteer events, along with Ollie Lockley, Athletics Development Officer and sponsors, Alténar.  
(Credit: Isle of Man Athletics)*

## VOLUNTEER AWARD SCHEME

**Tell us a bit more about the Isle of Man Athletics Volunteer Award Scheme.**





The IOMAA's Volunteer Award Scheme, proudly supported by Alténar, aims to recognise and reward the incredible contributions of our dedicated volunteers at club events to keep the sport thriving.

For every event someone helps out at, whether it's marshalling, officiating, judging, organising the event, or providing general assistance; every event you volunteer at with a local athletics club will count towards earning rewards.

Volunteers reaching milestones of 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 50 stamps can convert these into kit and merchandise as token of our appreciation for your dedication and hard work. Moreover, each event you volunteer at also earns you one entry into our annual tombola, which includes the opportunity to win a grand prize, which will be awarded at an annual IOMAA "Thank You" volunteers evening.

More information can be found about the scheme on our website here: <https://iomathletics.com/get-involved/volunteering/>

**Want to find out more information about Athletics or get in touch with the Isle of Man Athletics Association? Contact us:**

-  [iomado@hotmail.com](mailto:iomado@hotmail.com)
-  <https://iomathletics.com/>
-  [Facebook - Isle of Man Athletics group](#)
-  <https://www.instagram.com/iomathletics/>



# GLASGOW 2026: COMMONWEALTH GAMES



Glasgow 2026 is fast-approaching, with the 23rd edition of the Commonwealth Games due to take place from Thursday 23rd July to Sunday 2nd August 2026 and featuring a 10-sport programme concentrated across four venues, with six Para sports included.

## SPORTS

Glasgow 2026 is due to feature 10 sports including: athletics, swimming, 3x3 basketball, track cycling, weightlifting, lawn bowls, artistic gymnastics, netball, boxing, and judo.

## SELECTION STANDARDS

Selection standards are approved in conjunction with all the sports due to compete in each Commonwealth Games. For Glasgow 2026, this is no different, with a number of selection standards for some of the sports being released recently.

In recent years, the Commonwealth Games Association of the Isle of Man has introduced a tiered selection process with an aim of being more athlete-focused. Whilst the uncertainty around the 2026 Games has delayed some of the usual processes more than normal, preparations are underway for Glasgow 2026 and athletes will be looking to reach the qualifying standards prior to final selection being completed in Summer 2026.

## OFFICIAL MASCOT

The Glasgow 2026 official mascot has been announced - Finnie is a unicorn and was imagined by the young people of Glasgow!

Find out more about Finnie here:

[www.glasgow2026.com/about/finnie](http://www.glasgow2026.com/about/finnie)



Tara Donnelly competing for Team Isle of Man at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. Credit: CGAIoM

**Want to find out more information or get in touch with the Isle of Man Commonwealth Games Association? Get in touch!**



+44(0)1624 617435



[iomcga@outlook.com](mailto:iomcga@outlook.com)



<https://www.facebook.com/IOMCGA>



<https://www.cga.im/>



**Want to find out what's happening when at Glasgow 2026?**

Scan the QR code to the right or click the link below to see the schedule for Glasgow 2026!



[www.glasgow2026.com/schedule/overview](http://www.glasgow2026.com/schedule/overview)

# KING'S BATON RELAY

commonwealth  
sport  
**KING'S BATON RELAY**  
GLASGOW 2026

The King's Baton Relay is a tradition that celebrates and connects communities from across the Commonwealth during the build-up to the Games. The Relay began at Buckingham Palace on Commonwealth Day, Monday 10th March 2025, when His Majesty The King placed His Message to the Commonwealth into the first Baton. Reaching every corner of the Commonwealth, the journey to Glasgow 2026 will take 500 days to complete and all 74 Batons will be reunited at the Opening Ceremony of the Games, where the final Baton will be presented to His Majesty and the Message read aloud to declare the Games officially open!

## DESIGN THE BATON

For the first time ever, every Commonwealth nation and territory will receive their own Baton for their celebrations and will customise and decorate it to represent their culture. Inspired by the three CGF values - Humanity, Equality, Destiny - three interlocking pieces of sustainably sourced ash (a hardwood from Scotland) come together to create the Baton's form. The negative spaces where the three pieces come together represent Commonwealth connections and each end is tapered to allow two people to hold the Baton at the same time, creating moments of connection throughout the Relay and across the Commonwealth. Each Baton also has one single word from The King's Message engraved onto it and these will all be read at the Opening Ceremony. The word on the Isle of Man Baton is "Build".

Manx artists have been invited to submit designs to decorate the Isle of Man's Baton using the theme of Manx culture and heritage. Submissions can be received up until 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026 and the preferred design will be selected by a local panel of judges in March after the closing date. The winning artist will then be invited to apply the design to the Baton in time for the visit of the King's Baton Relay to the Island.



*The Baton*



*Queen's Baton Relay on the Isle of Man in 2022*

## THE RELAY

As part of the Relay, Commonwealth Sport is partnering with the Royal Commonwealth Society to deliver the Commonwealth Clean Oceans Plastics Campaign. The campaign aim is for athletes and communities to come together to prevent 1 million pieces of plastic from entering Commonwealth waters and to spark lasting change in how plastic pollution is viewed, with this global relay of plastic clean-ups travelling through every Commonwealth nation and territory as part of The King's Baton Relay.

The Isle of Man Commonwealth Games Association is inviting former Commonwealth Games athletes to come forward and take part in next year's King's Baton Relay, which will visit the Island between 13th and 18th June 2026 in the lead up to next summer's Games in Glasgow.

If you would like more information about either the Baton design competition or are a former athlete and would like to be involved in the Relay, please email Victoria at [kingsbatonrelay@gmail.com](mailto:kingsbatonrelay@gmail.com).

# MALTA AND GOZO 2027: COMMONWEALTH YOUTH GAMES



On 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025, it was announced that Malta will host the 8th Commonwealth Youth Games (CYG) in late 2027. Commonwealth Sport confirmed its commitment to taking the Youth Games to new countries and especially small and island nations, through the Award of the Games to Malta in 2027.

Malta 2027 is expected to host approximately 1,150 athletes aged 14-18 from the 74 Commonwealth Nations and Territories. Their dual-island concept features venues in four main clusters across the islands of Malta and Gozo with two Athlete Villages, one on each island.

## SPORTS

Eight sports are due to feature in the Games in 2 years' time, with Sailing and Water Polo making their Commonwealth Youth Games debut for the first time and the programme is designed to utilise existing state-of-the-art venues.

Malta 2027 will have the largest Para sport programme at a Commonwealth Youth Games, with Para Swimming being added for the first time, building on the inclusion of Para Athletics in Trinidad and Tobago in 2023. The other sports included in Malta 2027 are: Athletics and Para Athletics, Netball, Squash, Swimming and Para Swimming, Triathlon, and Weightlifting.

Alongside the sporting events, the Games will feature a Cultural and Education Programme, celebrating the diversity of the Commonwealth and promoting key issues such as sustainability, youth empowerment, and Maltese heritage. It is also expected that Malta 2027 will boost grassroots participation, strengthen local capacity in event management, stimulate economic growth and tourism, and foster cultural exchange, global recognition, and environmental sustainability, ensuring the benefits extend well beyond the end of the Games.



*Team Isle of Man at the 2023 Commonwealth Youth Games  
Credit: CGA IoM*

## TEAM ISLE OF MAN

This is the first Youth Games to sit within a UK Time Zone since the Isle of Man hosted the Games in 2011 and hopefully this will enable greater support to the selected athletes.

At the most recent CYG in Trinidad and Tobago in 2023, the Isle of Man took a 7-strong team with competitors from athletics, swimming and cycling. The team brought back 2 bronze medals, both won by cyclist Ruby Oakes who competed in the Women's Road Race and Women's Individual Time Trial and is now racing for the UCI women's continental team, DAS-Hutchinson-Brother-UK.

Find out more info about the Isle of Man's performance at Trinbago 2023 in the [Isle of Man Sport December 2023 newsletter](#).

# ISLE OF MAN SPORTS AWARDS



The Isle of Man Sports Awards is an inspirational evening where the Island's top athletes and officials gather at the Villa Marina to celebrate the sporting achievements and success stories of the year!

## ***Sports Awards nominations open on 17th November 2025...***

The Isle of Man Sports Awards is an inspirational evening where the Island's top athletes and officials gather at the Villa Marina to celebrate the sporting achievements and success stories of the year.

This year's Isle of Man Sports Awards will be held on Thursday 26th February 2026 at 7.30pm. Awards will be presented for the following categories on the night:

- Sportsman of the Year
- Sportswoman of the Year
- Under 21 Sportswoman of the Year
- Under 21 Sportsman of the Year
- Disability Sportsperson of the Year
- Sports Team of the Year
- Sports Administrator of the Year
- Ambassador of the Year
- Sports Coach of the Year
- Veteran Sportsperson of the Year
- The Leonie Cooil 'Courage & Inspiration' Award
- Lifetime Achievement Award
- Sports Leader of the Year

## **How can I attend the event?**

Tickets can be purchased from the VillaGaiety from January 2026.

## **How can I nominate someone?**

Go to the Sports Awards page of the Isle of Man Sport website to find the online nomination form: <https://www.isleofmansport.com/sports-awards/>

**Nominations close on 14th December 2025.**

## **Know a volunteer who should be recognised?**

Nominate them to attend our Volunteer Celebration and Acknowledgement event at the Sports Awards! If you would like to nominate someone to attend this event to celebrate their commitment as a volunteer to their sport, please email [sportsliaison@gov.im](mailto:sportsliaison@gov.im) with your nomination, their name, contact details and sport.



# ISLE OF MAN BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER: WORLD GAMES 2025



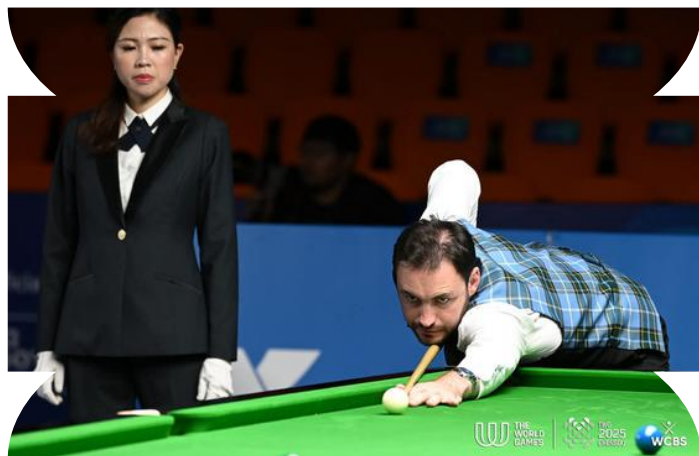
**Earlier this year, one of the Isle of Man Billiards and Snooker Association (IOMBSA) players, Darryl Hill, was selected to represent Great Britain at the World Games in Chengdu, China between 7<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> August 2025.**

**We caught up with Darryl, former European U21 Snooker Champion and now Chair of the IOMBSA, to find out a little more about the World Games, amateur versus professional sport and opportunities on the Isle of Man for aspiring snooker and billiards players.**

## WORLD GAMES 2025

**Tell us a bit more about the World Games. What is it and how do you get selected to represent Team GB?**

The World Games is organised by the same International Committee as the Olympic Games organisers and is for multiple disciplines not in the Olympic Games. It is held every 4 years with a different host city/country, which for 2025 was Chengdu in China and saw 34 different sports contested. There are several cue sport games played, of which Snooker is one, and the 12 player



*Darryl Hill representing Great Britain at the World Games 2025*

line-up was selected on an individual basis, based on results from the 2024 World Amateur Championships.

**What other opportunities have arisen in the last 12 months which led to your selection for the World Games?**

In March I was invited to be a seeded player in a new tournament in California, the US Masters and then I also received another invitation in the summer, to the inaugural Commonwealth Championship which was held in Mauritius.

**Tell us a bit more about the opportunities local players on the Island have to compete at International level and how important these are for the development of the sport?**

The Isle of Man has its own National Governing Body, of which I am also the Chairman. The pathway of entry into World and European Amateur Championships is through the National Governing Bodies which are affiliated to the World and European Associations and entry into these events is solely through the National Governing Bodies who must select the players they wish to represent them and their countries. Therefore, we stage ranking events on Island throughout the year which enables players to qualify directly into the tournaments, with over 40's players having the same opportunities in the 'Masters' events and junior events held for Under 21 players.

On a more minor International scale, we annually send teams to the Home Internationals Event in Leeds, where we compete over a weekend against the other Home Nations. In 2025, we competed in the Men's Masters and Billiards events and enjoyed our best results to date!



*Isle of Man Masters Snooker Team at the Home Internationals*

## AMATEUR VS PROFESSIONAL

**You've had experience of both professional and top-level amateur snooker, what are the key differences?**

The professional events are only open to the main tour professionals with the tour being restricted to 128 players who must qualify their way onto the World Tour through the World and European amateur events. Obviously, money is a big difference with prize money for the amateur game being substantially less than the main tour ranking events and naturally the pressure is higher and more intense on the pro circuit as the rankings are based on prize money earned.

When a player earns a tour card, they are guaranteed a place for 2 years by which time they need to have reached the top 64 or they are relegated. The existing pros are on a rolling two year basis so must maintain a high level or their rankings can drop dramatically and they could then be in danger also of being relegated.

**What would you say to any young person aspiring towards professional snooker?**

It's hard work and you need to be very dedicated, but the rewards are there to be enjoyed. Snooker is now a massive global sport with a lot of TV coverage and plenty of travelling involved, with opportunities to see the World!

I have competed in Europe, the Middle East, Asia and America and played on mainstream TV 4 times and have just competed in my first World Games under the GB banner, being selected as the flag bearer for cue sports in the opening ceremony.

## THE LOCAL GAME

**How important is the local game for growing the sport on the Island and what opportunities are there to get involved in snooker or billiards?**

It's essential to grow the sport to enable it to have a future. We have an all-Island league which, for the 2025-26 season, will see 14 teams of at least 5 players compete over 26 weeks and is handicapped to provide equal opportunity to all players. We have individual handicap and scratch events and generally the way to get started is to begin playing in one of the venues which will lead into either joining a league team from that venue or joining the association as a member and playing in your first competitions.

**Do you have to already play or are there other ways to get involved in billiards or snooker?**

No, not at all, total beginners are welcome! At the main commercial venue on the island, The Cue Zone IOM, which is actually my club, we have coaching available with either myself or one of the association coaches who have been trained by the European Association coach. The venue is also open to anybody just looking for a game of snooker, billiards or pool to give it a go and see how they take to it.

In the last 5 years, Isle of Man Sport have provided over £6,000 through the Support for Sport funding programme towards individuals representing the Isle of Man at National and International level Snooker competition, including support to attend the Home Internationals, EBSA European Championships, IBSF World Amateur Championships and the World Games.

**Want to find out more information or get in touch with the Isle of Man Billiards and Snooker Association? Contact us:**



<https://www.iom2011.leaguerepublic.com>



<https://www.facebook.com/iomsnooker/>



[secretaryiombsa@outlook.com](mailto:secretaryiombsa@outlook.com)

# MANX POWERLIFTING ASSOCIATION



Earlier this year, the Manx Powerlifting Association (MPA) achieved recognised status with Isle of Man Sport, following work with our Sports Liaison Officer over the last 2 years.

We caught up with Lisa Grant (MPA Director of Operations) to find out a bit more about Powerlifting, the MPA's recent highlights and their plans moving forward.

## NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

Powerlifting is still a relatively new sport on the Island, with MPA only being formed in January 2022. For those that don't know anything about the sport, what's involved in Powerlifting and what makes the sport so special?

Powerlifting is made up of three main lifts, back squat, bench press and deadlift and the aim is simple: lift as much weight as you can across the three.

But what makes it special isn't just the numbers on the bar it's the people! The atmosphere at a competition is electric. You'll have beginners lifting alongside seasoned athletes, and everyone cheers just as loudly for the person hitting their first ever PB as they do for a national record.

It's one of the most inclusive, empowering sports out there. Age, gender, experience - none of that matters. Everyone has a place on the powerlifting platform!



Some of the competitors at the Manx Powerlifting Championships 2025. Credit: MPA



Some of the Manx Powerlifting team at the Commonwealth Powerlifting Championships 2024 in South Africa. Credit: MPA

**You've recently returned from the Home Nations 2025, tell us a bit more about the opportunities local powerlifters on the Island have to compete at National and International level?**

It's honestly incredible how far we've come in such a short time. Since forming in 2022, we've had Manx lifters compete all over from the British Championships to the Commonwealth Powerlifting Championships, World Championships and more!

Because we're affiliated with British Powerlifting and the International Powerlifting Federation, local lifters have a clear pathway from their first local meet right through to international level if they want to chase that dream. It means an Island lifter can literally start in Castletown and end up representing the Isle of Man on an international platform!

# COACHING AND OFFICIATING DEVELOPMENT

**There's a lot more that goes on behind the scenes to enable participation at that level though, isn't there? Tell us more about the recent success within coaching and officiating development.**

Yes there's a huge amount that goes on behind the scenes! In the last year, we've made massive progress in developing our coaches and officials!

We now have qualified referees at national and international level, which is a big deal for such a small federation. We've also launched a 12 month coach development programme to raise the standard of coaching across the Island, so that lifters are supported safely and effectively at every stage. It's all volunteer run and built from passion, which makes the progress even more rewarding.



*Lisa Grant successfully passing her International Powerlifting Federation Category 2 International Referee exam  
Credit: MPA*

**What opportunities are there to become a powerlifting coach, official or volunteer on the Island and how does someone get involved?**

We're always looking for more people to get involved, whether that's helping at events, learning to referee or getting started as a coach. You don't need to be a lifter yourself, just an interest in sport, fairness and community. We run regular introduction sessions, mentorship for new officials and a clear pathway for anyone wanting to progress. The best first step is to come along to a local competition, chat to us and see what it's all about. You'll be hooked once you do!

## FUTURE PLANS

**What plans does Manx Powerlifting have for the future of the sport and where are you hoping to be in 5 year's time?**

The dream is to have a dedicated training facility on the Island - a proper home for powerlifting where athletes can train, coaches can develop, and we can host competitions that showcase the incredible talent here.

In 5 years, we want to see more lifters competing internationally, more officials representing the Isle of Man abroad, and a strong youth and masters pipeline to keep the sport growing sustainably. Most of all, we want powerlifting to be recognised as part of the Island's sporting fabric, not just a niche, but a community that builds strength, resilience and pride.

**Where can I find out more information about Powerlifting and how to get involved?**

More information can be found on the MPA website or Facebook pages below, or you contact the MPA Secretary by email:



[manxpowerlifting@gmail.com](mailto:manxpowerlifting@gmail.com)



<https://manxpowerlifting.com/>



[www.facebook.com/manxpowerlifting/](http://www.facebook.com/manxpowerlifting/)

Isle of Man Sport are pleased to have supported the Manx Powerlifting Association's coaches and officials to attend a variety of recognised IPF courses and exams to achieve National and International standards over the last 6 months since achieving recognised status and look forward to supporting greater development of the sport over the coming years!

# COACH EDUCATION PROGRAMME 2026



## Manx Sport and Recreation (MSR) Coach Education Programme free to individuals within Isle of Man Sport recognised Governing Bodies of Sport!

To demonstrate our commitment to ensuring sport on the Island is safe for all and to reduce administration for sports, over the last 4 years, Isle of Man Sport have provided all workshops on the MSR Coach Education Programme at nil cost to coaches, officials and volunteers from recognised Governing Bodies of Sport.

Over 250 individuals have utilised this scheme in the last 4 years and following its success, Isle of Man Sport are continuing this initiative and hope that many more volunteers, coaches and officials can access the essential training that they need.

### How do I access these workshops for free?

Contact your local club or recognised Governing Body of Sport who will be able to provide a promo code to you. This can be entered on the [EventBrite website](#) when booking, to reduce the cost to nil.

Sports whose National Governing Body requires them to attend sport-specific workshops can still access matched funding via the Support for Sport programme should they wish to do so.

### What about Welfare Officer training?

UK Coaching runs regular Welfare Officer Training: Time to Listen online classrooms which can be accessed online here:

[www.ukcoaching.org/our-courses/courses/welfare-officer-training-time-to-listen/](http://www.ukcoaching.org/our-courses/courses/welfare-officer-training-time-to-listen/)

The coach education programme includes:

- UK Coaching Safeguarding and Protecting Children
- Royal Life Saving Society (RLSS) Life Support 3 (First Aid)

For more information, please contact Sam Caine on [Sam.Caine@gov.im](mailto:Sam.Caine@gov.im) or 688557. To book onto a course, please click the image or link below:

<https://msr.gov.im/media/3095/coach-education-programme-2026.pdf>

**MSR**

**ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY UK**

**LIFE SUPPORT 3 FIRST AID**

The RLSS UK Life Support 3 award includes CPR for infants, children, and adults, covering safety awareness, casualty positioning, responsiveness checks, CPR sequences, drowning response, regurgitation management, recovery position, pocket mask use, and optional first aid for bleeding and shock.

For more information visit: [www.rlss.org.uk/life-support-3](http://www.rlss.org.uk/life-support-3)

To book onto one of the courses please visit our website: [msr.gov.im](http://msr.gov.im) or use the QR code provided below

**When & Where**

12 January 2026  
19 January 2026  
10 March 2026  
13 May 2026  
14 September 2026  
23 October 2026

Cost - £25

All workshops are scheduled from 6:00 pm to 9:30 pm and will take place at the Sports Development Office Training Room

Want to know more about our Support for Sport programme? Visit our website:

<https://www.isleofmansport.com/sports-liaison/support-for-sport/>

# SPORTING EVENTS CALENDAR 2025/26



Isle of Man Sport is pleased to bring you this sporting events calendar from our current recognised sports, highlighting some fantastic opportunities to participate, watch and support local, national and international sport, right here on the Island!

Every effort has been made to ensure that the details are correct, but please check with the event organiser before attending. You can view the full calendar and what's on, along with submitting new events, on our website here: [www.isleofmansport.com/whats-on/](http://www.isleofmansport.com/whats-on/)

NOVEMBER				
Equestrian	Manx Horse Council Team Arena Eventing Finals	2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Kennaa Riding Club	<a href="http://www.manxhorsecouncil.com">www.manxhorsecouncil.com</a>
Tennis	LTA Fast4 Open Regional Tour	8 <sup>th</sup> - 9 <sup>th</sup> November	Douglas Lawn Tennis Club	<a href="http://Tennis Isle of Man">Tennis Isle of Man</a>
Badminton	Isle of Man Badminton Under 13 Open Championship	15 <sup>th</sup> November	The Roundhouse	<a href="http://www.iombadminton.com">www.iombadminton.com</a>
Squash	Steve Gaylor Memorial Tournament	15 <sup>th</sup> November	NSC	<a href="https://www.iomsquash.com">https://www.iomsquash.com</a>
Athletics	Isle of Man Half Marathon Championships	23 <sup>rd</sup> November	Castletown	<a href="http://www.iomvac.co.uk">www.iomvac.co.uk</a>
Equestrian	Manx Horse Council Team Quiz	28 <sup>th</sup> November	British Horse Society IOM	<a href="http://www.manxhorsecouncil.com">www.manxhorsecouncil.com</a>
Equestrian	Manx Horse Council Team Dressage Challenge	29 <sup>th</sup> November	Ballavartyn Equestrian Centre	<a href="http://www.manxhorsecouncil.com">www.manxhorsecouncil.com</a>
DECEMBER				
Hockey	Manx Hockey Association Indoor Finals Day	6 <sup>th</sup> December	NSC	<a href="http://www.mha.org.im">www.mha.org.im</a>
Squash	C League Tournament	6 <sup>th</sup> December	NSC	<a href="https://www.iomsquash.com">https://www.iomsquash.com</a>
Gymnastics	Isle of Man Gymnastics Invitational Competition	7 <sup>th</sup> December	TBC	<a href="https://iomgymnastics.com">https://iomgymnastics.com</a>
Hockey	Manx Hockey Association Mixed Finals Day	13 <sup>th</sup> December	NSC	<a href="http://www.mha.org.im">www.mha.org.im</a>
Equestrian	Manx Horse Council Team Trec Championships	14 <sup>th</sup> December	TBC	<a href="http://www.manxhorsecouncil.com">www.manxhorsecouncil.com</a>
Football	IOMFA Railway Cup Final	26 <sup>th</sup> December	The Bowl, NSC	<a href="http://www.isleofmanfa.com">www.isleofmanfa.com</a>
2026				
JANUARY				
Squash	Blitz competition	10 <sup>th</sup> January	NSC	<a href="https://www.iomsquash.com">https://www.iomsquash.com</a>
Athletics	Isle of Man Cross Country Championships	18 <sup>th</sup> January	TBC	<a href="https://iomathletics.com">https://iomathletics.com</a>
Equestrian	Manx Horse Council Team Showjumping Challenge	18 <sup>th</sup> January	Conrhenny Equestrian Centre	<a href="http://www.manxhorsecouncil.com">www.manxhorsecouncil.com</a>
Squash	Elite/Masters closed tournament	19 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup> and 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	NSC	<a href="https://www.iomsquash.com">https://www.iomsquash.com</a>
Powerlifting	Manx Powerlifting Spring Open	24 <sup>th</sup> January	Revolution Powerlifting Club, Castletown	<a href="https://manxpowerlifting.com">https://manxpowerlifting.com</a>
MARCH				
Squash	Isle of Man Squash National Championships	9 <sup>th</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> and 12 <sup>th</sup> March	NSC	<a href="https://www.iomsquash.com">https://www.iomsquash.com</a>
Athletics	Hospice Half Marathon	22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Ramsey	<a href="http://www.hospice.org.im/events/">www.hospice.org.im/events/</a>
Equestrian	Manx Horse Council Team Hunter Trial Challenge	22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Manx Chasers Riding Club	<a href="http://www.manxhorsecouncil.com">www.manxhorsecouncil.com</a>
APRIL				
Athletics	Isle of Man Easter Festival of Running	3 <sup>rd</sup> - 5 <sup>th</sup> April	Various	<a href="https://easterfestival.info/">https://easterfestival.info/</a>
Athletics	Manx Mountain Marathon	4 <sup>th</sup> April	Ramsey (start)	<a href="http://www.manxfellrunners.org">www.manxfellrunners.org</a>
Powerlifting	Manx Powerlifting Championships	5 <sup>th</sup> April	Revolution Powerlifting Club, Castletown	<a href="https://manxpowerlifting.com">https://manxpowerlifting.com</a>
Triathlon	Junior Triathlon	25 <sup>th</sup> April	NSC	<a href="https://manxtriclub.com/">https://manxtriclub.com/</a>
Hockey	Manx Hockey Association Men's and Ladies Finals Day	TBC	NSC	<a href="http://www.mha.org.im">www.mha.org.im</a>
MAY				
Triathlon	Sprint Triathlon	10 <sup>th</sup> May	Northern Swimming Pool	<a href="https://manxtriclub.com/">https://manxtriclub.com/</a>
Volleyball	Isle of Man Invitational Volleyball Tournament	16 <sup>th</sup> - 17 <sup>th</sup> May	NSC	<a href="https://www.volleyballiom.com/">https://www.volleyballiom.com/</a>
Golf	Isle of Man Golf Junior Championships	17 <sup>th</sup> May	Castletown Golf Club	<a href="http://www.isleofmangolf.im">www.isleofmangolf.im</a>
Motorcycling	Pre TT Classic Road Races	23 <sup>rd</sup> - 25 <sup>th</sup> May	Southern 100 course, Castletown	<a href="http://www.southern100.com">www.southern100.com</a>
JUNE				
Triathlon	Manx Middle Distance Triathlon Championships	14 <sup>th</sup> June	Mooragh Park, Ramsey	<a href="https://manxtriclub.com/">https://manxtriclub.com/</a>
Crown Green Bowls	June Crown Green Bowls Festival	15 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Nobles Park and various	<a href="http://www.iombowls.com/festival">www.iombowls.com/festival</a>
Athletics	Parish Walk	20 <sup>th</sup> -21 <sup>st</sup> June	NSC and all Island	<a href="https://www.parishwalk.com/">https://www.parishwalk.com/</a>
Golf	Isle of Man Golf Senior Championships	21st June	Douglas Golf Club	<a href="http://www.isleofmangolf.im">www.isleofmangolf.im</a>
JULY				
Golf	Isle of Man Men's and Women's Golf Championships	4 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Rowany Golf Club	<a href="http://www.isleofmangolf.im">www.isleofmangolf.im</a>
Motorcycling	Southern 100 Road Races	6 <sup>th</sup> - 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Southern 100 Course, Castletown	<a href="http://www.southern100.com">www.southern100.com</a>
Motorcycling	Manx National 2-day Trial	11 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Douglas Rugby Club	<a href="http://www.manx2day.co.uk">www.manx2day.co.uk</a>
Cycling	Gran Fondo Isle of Man	25 <sup>th</sup> - 26 <sup>th</sup> July	TBC	<a href="http://www.granfondoisleofman.com">www.granfondoisleofman.com</a>
Equestrian	The Viking Cup Polo Tournament	31 <sup>st</sup> July - 2 <sup>nd</sup> August	Ballacooley Estate	<a href="http://www.thevikingcup.co.uk">www.thevikingcup.co.uk</a>

V2 04.12.25

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Check out the full  
2025 calendar here:



